

California State Senate

ALEX PADILLA
SENATOR, 20TH DISTRICT



March 1, 2013

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to request your support for Senate Bill 135, legislation I have authored to create a statewide earthquake early warning system in California.

Most Californians have experienced firsthand the effects of an earthquake. We remember the Loma Prieta, Northridge, Whittier Narrows, and Sylmar quakes. And, we all know that another major earthquake in California is not a matter of if, but when.

The stakes got higher when in January, the California Institute of Technology and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology published a study which concluded for the first time that a statewide earthquake involving both the Los Angeles and San Francisco metropolitan areas may be possible.

While we cannot prevent an earthquake, we should do more to prepare ourselves. Earthquake early warning systems are in place, or in the works, in a number of earthquake prone nations including Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, Turkey, Italy, China and Romania. They not only save lives, they help mitigate damage.

Here in California, the California Institute of Technology, U.C. Berkeley, U.S. Geological Survey, California Geological Survey and others operate a demonstration earthquake early warning system called the California Integrated Seismic Network. SB 135 would build upon that progress and calls for a fully developed statewide system that would detect seismic activity, determine the progression and alert people in advance of an approaching earthquake to save lives and mitigate damage. It would provide Californians critical seconds and up to 60 seconds to assist loved ones, pull to the side of the road or exit a building. It would allow time to safely stop trains, power down critical infrastructure, and turn off industrial machines. Such a system would not only alert the public via television, radio and smartphones, it would speed the response of police and fire personnel by quickly identifying areas hardest hit by the quake.

Attached, please find a sample resolution in support of SB 135, a copy of the bill, and a fact sheet with more information. I look forward to working with you so that an earthquake early warning system becomes a reality in our state sooner, rather than later.

If I can be of any assistance, please contact me or my staff at (916) 651-4020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alex Padilla".

Senator Alex Padilla

